

Meghan Pybus Parent
Cheshire, CT
Senate Bill 1054 An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia

My name is Meghan Pybus I have a 7-year-old son with Dyslexia. I can spend pages writing about our personal journey, but I choose to instead talk about inefficiencies in educating our students with learning disabilities.

My background is as an internal auditor whom worked for a billion dollar public company. My job was to visit our subsidiaries and report back on ways to increase efficiency. This is probably where I get my analytical view. The immediate problems I noticed in my school district's reading intervention include the following;

- I was the person who first identified my son as having dyslexia and was actually told by my school districts Special Education Supervisor that he did not have a formal diagnosis. I wonder about the parents who did not recognize the signs and do not push for intervention and what happens to their children.
- My son's intervention consisted of five hours a week of pull out for reading intervention. I could never verify the credentials or training of the person whom was performing this intervention, how many other students were in this group, or what reading intervention program the school was using. There was no formal policy or procedure that I was aware of that the school district followed.

We are so blessed to have the Yale Dyslexic Center right here in Connecticut. It is time to take advantage of the resources we have and devise a reading intervention to be implemented in all schools throughout Connecticut. We need to help all these children learn to read prior to them experiencing academic failure.

Financing this initiative is another topic, I am sure that anyone who does a cost-benefit analysis on giving appropriate intervention at the beginning of a child's academic career will find it is much less expensive than the alternative of spending countless hours trying to remediate the problem in the future. This is not to mention the thousands of hours spent on an intervention that is poorly executed and does not work.

These children deserve our best efforts to ensure that all children get an appropriate education.

Thank you for your time,
Meghan Pybus